

**CITY OF SAVANNAH
ANTI-POVERTY TASK FORCE**

Summary of Meeting

May 21, 2003, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Bull Street Library Auditorium

1. Welcome/Introductions
Attending: Sr. Pat Baber, Lillian Baptiste, John Paul Berlon, Dr. Victoria Bertolozzi, Moira Sheehan (for Tina Bonifacio), Craig Cashman, Kathleen Durham, Jacqueline Elmore, Dr. Shirley Geiger, Natalie Moultrie, Stephen George (for Tony O'Reilly), Bernard Polite, Charlotte Rehmert, Gregg Schroeder, Letty Shearer, Jim Stevenson, Michael Robbins (for Keith Vermillion), Gena Taylor, Jamal Toure, Craig Wallace, Tom Wilson.
2. Meeting Schedule
The Task Force agreed to hold meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 10-11:30 at the Bull Street Library Auditorium.
3. Review of Last Meeting
The April 30 meeting summary was reviewed. No additions/changes were made.
4. Study on Persistent Poverty Response
Dr. Geiger handed out a memo and provided an overview of the Study and the proposed letter from the Task Force in response to Chatham County's exclusion in the Persistent Poverty Study. The Task Force's Study Work Group (Dr. Geiger, Dr. Bertolozzi and Gena Taylor) will draft a letter of response and circulate it via e-mail to the Task Force prior to the next meeting. The letter will address the "pockets" of poverty in Chatham County and Savannah. The Task Force letter will be addressed to City Manager, Michael Brown from the Economic Development Department on behalf of the Task Force. The City Manager will, in turn, decide who should sign the formal letter to Sen Miller, Sen Johnson and the Carl Vinson Institute.

Suggestions/Comments: Craig Cashman added that the 25% of Chatham's homeless come from surrounding counties and use Chatham services. It was suggested that the chart depicting *Percentages of Poverty Among Age Groups* be modified. The 18 to 64 year age group will be broken down to more narrowly define the age groups with the highest poverty. It was also suggested that a second chart be created to reflect poverty among children.

5. CDBG Poverty
In response to requests for more detailed poverty information, Julie Lamy presented Census 2000 information reflecting the CDBG target area census tracts with the highest poverty levels (individual and female head of household). The attached *May 21* powerpoint presentation includes slides of the six census tracts with the highest percentages.
6. Best Practices

Task Force members were asked to present Best Practices in their particular fields at the June meeting. Charlotte Rehmert suggested looking at the Dayton, OH model, the Brookings Institute, and United Way Best Practices. Tom Wilson suggested looking at transportation best practices models and its link to poverty reduction. (It was suggested that CAT be represented on the Task Force.) Background information on Savannah's existing poverty-reduction initiatives was requested including the Authority for the Homeless continuum of care and Casey-sponsored Project SAV.

7. Wage Standards

The City is conducting additional research before distributing its background piece on *Wage Standards & Poverty*. A wage standard comparison and detail of Savannah MSA's Self-Sufficiency Standard are part of the attached powerpoint presentation.

8. Faith-Based Community Development

Lillian Baptiste distributed a list of churches within the CDBG target area and churches that serve CDBG residents. The list of churches, their addresses and leadership is attached. These churches will be contacted to gauge their interest in becoming a part of a Task Force initiative due to:

- the population they serve,
- capacity,
- location,
- and/or interest in community development programs.

The following list includes the church names and their current community-based initiatives.

- Temple of Glory Community Church (day care, fitness, family center, elderly program)
- St. Matthew's Episcopal Church (coalition to meet elderly needs with Butler Presbyterian and Holy Spirit Lutheran Church)
- St. Philip Monumental AME Church (considered starting a CDC, new pastor)
- St. Paul's CME Church (technical center, women and men's shelters – substance abuse issues)
- Butler Presbyterian Church (part of coalition)
- Overcoming by Faith Ministries (not in CDBG neighborhood but serves CDBG residents, invests seed money in CDBG neighborhoods)
- Abyssinia Baptist Church (started a CDC)
- St. John's Baptist Church (senior citizens' home, starting a learning center)
- St. Benedict The Moor Catholic Church (after-school youth activities)

Suggestions: It was suggested that churches within the CDBG area partner with churches outside of the CDBG area as part of the Task Force's initiatives.

9. Other: Natalie Moultrie of the City of Savannah introduced the new City/EOA sponsored *IDA for Business Ownership* Program. For more information on the Individual Development Account (IDA) program, please contact Natalie with the City at NMoultrie@ci.savannah.ga.us / 652-3579 or Terry Tolbert at EOA at 238-2960x115.

10. Next Steps:

- A) **Study on Persistent Poverty draft response** to be sent out by the Work Group by e-mail before the June meeting and at the June meeting. Modification of poverty charts.
- B) **Best Practices presentations:** Task Force members to prepare short presentations on relevant Best Practices for the meeting in June.
- C) Dissemination and discussion on **wage standards and poverty** by the Economic Development Department.
- D) **Faith-Based Community:**
 - 1) Research and discussion on access to faith-based funding by Coastal Workforce Services.
 - 2) Initial contacts with churches mentioned above to gauge interest in Task Force initiatives.
- E) The Task Force is ready to move forward with preparation for two initiatives:
 - 1) **Development of a continuum of care program for 25 families living in poverty.** The program would be implemented through the faith-based community. The Economic Development Department will draft a model and distribute it at the June meeting.

Suggestions: monitor a control group and compare at set time intervals.

2) **Development of an information sharing network and materials by agencies and institutions serving the low-income/poverty population in Savannah/Chatham including a potential central location for information dissemination/service provision.**

Suggestions: Craig Cashman suggested looking at a model in Virginia. Anne Roise pointed out the one-stop location of small business resources with SBAC and UGA's Business Development Center. Kathleen Durham suggested that any material development be audience appropriate. Community needs assessment conducted in mid-80s. Authority for the Homeless conducts needs assessment for their population in order to develop programs and materials.

11. Next Meeting
Tuesday, June 24
10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Bull Street Library Auditorium

Attachments:

- 1) Updated Task Force Contact List
- 2) May 21 powerpoint presentation